

OLC RECORD COPY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20503

DDO

Office of Legislative Counsel

OLC 77-5690/a

5 JAN 1978

Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Eagleton:

STAT Thank you for your letter forwarding the request to you from [redacted] for information on the personnel reductions being effected in the Directorate of Operations of the CIA.

Enclosed herewith please find Admiral Stansfield Turner's statement on this matter.

STAT I hope that [redacted] will find the statement answers his questions and helps to allay his concern.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

George L. Cary  
Legislative Counsel

Enclosure

Distribution:

Orig - Addee w/att  
1 - OLC Subject  
1 - OLC Chrono

OLC:MMP:kjs (3 Jan 78)

OLC #77-5690

United States Senate

re:

[Redacted]

Respectfully referred to:

Central Intelligence Agency  
Congressional Liaison  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

.....Thomas F. Eagleton.....  
U.S.S.

TFE:ajp

Form #2

# CIA veterans fired

by PATRICK J. BUCHANAN

WASHINGTON — "If the satellites are blinded, what have we got?" Thus did Defense Secretary Harold Brown express his public concern with Soviet testing of hunter-killer satellites — designed to poke out America's eyes in outer space.

Upon our satellites, the United States depends for knowledge of troop movements and naval operations, of the strategic weapons, testing and deployment.

That the Russians, moving inexorably toward a first-strike capability, should be developing the means to destroy U.S. space vehicles is understandable. What is inexplicable is that, with the apparent blessing of the president, the United States is rendering itself partially blind and partially deaf in the global arena.

At the CIA, a sweeping purge is being conducted by the Directorate of Operations, the clandestine services which deal with espionage and counter-espionage. CIA Director Stansfield Turner has scheduled some 800-plus personnel for severance from the elite corps over the next two years — a number representing at least 20 per cent of the service.

Yet, more than numbers are at stake. Many of those being severed are among the most experienced and able men in

the agency, including senior officers and stations chiefs in some of the most crucial posts in Europe. Together, these men represent thousands of man-years of invaluable intelligence experience, and irreplaceable contacts and confidences built up over long careers. When the purge is complete, part of the institutional memory of the CIA will be permanently destroyed.

An estimated 200 members of the clandestine services have already received a memo that can fairly be described in Hobbes' words as "nasty, brutish and short."

"Subject: Notification of intent to recommend separation.

"This is to inform you of my intent to recommend to the Director of Personnel your separation ... in order to achieve the reduction in the operational strength order by the DCI (Turner)."

This is the heart of the 70 word Haldermanic message sent scores of veterans of the silent service. In a gracious parting gesture, the CIA has told the veterans that those who sever themselves by year's end will not have this brutal discharge note placed in their permanent file. Those who refuse to go quietly will be unceremoniously dispatched by spring.

Though the missive was signed by Director of Operations, William Welles, it is reportedly not his handiwork.

Turner and his trigger man, special assistant Robert D. "Rusty" Williams, are said to be carrying out the purge at the behest of David Aaron of the National Security Council, one-time staffer on the CIA-baiting Church committee, and Walter Mondale, whom Mr. Carter has charged with oversight of the intelligence community "reform."

In this dangerous period of the Cold War that we have chosen to call "detente," the decapitation of the clandestine services is a reckless form of false economy.

During a Middle East war, as in 1973, our satellites may be able to tell us that

Soviet air-born divisions are being moved toward military air fields. But only human sources can tell us if Brezhnev is serious about intervention or is running a bluff. Gadgets can tell us about Russian capability; only human beings can tell us about motivation and intent.

Of passing interest is that the sweeping purge is being conducted to the indifference of the national press. Those 200 men however got their walking papers from the Peace Corps, the networks and national press would be ablaze with indignation.

11/24/77  
 Can this possibly  
 be true. If so  
 what is the Carter  
 administration be  
 thinking of.  
 Please let me hear  
 from you regarding  
 this matter

PO Box 351 (Address) P.T. N.S.